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## ARABIA.

*Plague present at Aden, but not officially reported—Conditions stated on bills of health.*

Consul Masterson reports, November 23, 1904, to the Assistant Secretary of State, as follows:

In continuation of my report on plague of November 8, I have to say that continuously for over one month there have been cases of plague reported as occurring in the old city of Aden, which is some 6 miles away, but so far none have appeared at Steamer Point, which is the shipping place for this port, and until plague does appear at the port of entry it is unlikely that an official proclamation will be issued to the effect that Aden is infected with plague. However, as soon as I am officially notified of this fact I shall immediately cable to the Department and, in the meantime, in all bills of health the conditions above narrated shall be given.

## AUSTRALIA.

*Health conditions in Queensland.*

[Abstract from Report of the Commissioner of Health, January 1 to June 30, 1904.]

*Diphtheria.*—During the year ended June 30, 1904, 325 cases of diphtheria were reported. It has been observed in many parts of the world that where scarlet fever is unusually prevalent the number of cases of diphtheria is also increased.

*Enteric fever.*—Seven hundred and seventy-seven cases were reported. From a review of the information supplied by the medical officers of health to the various local authorities it seems probable that the majority of cases were caused by fly infection or by infected dust. Thirty-five cases occurred in the area of Toowong and 54 in the area of Ithaca. A careful inspection of the Toowong district revealed an entire absence of drainage facilities, the household drainage being allowed to stagnate upon premises, while the sewage from the surrounding high ground found its way into a Chinaman's garden, where it was utilized for watering vegetables.

*Plague.*—The last case of plague in Brisbane in 1903 occurred on September 8. The last infected rat was found on September 28, 1903, and the first infected rat found in 1904 was discovered on January 8. The first case of human plague in 1904 was discovered a month later. Thus after an interval of 151 days plague made its reappearance in Brisbane, the first case in man being reported on February 9, 1904.

The outbreak—the fifth in Queensland—was marked by 29 cases with 9 deaths: Brisbane, 24 cases, 6 deaths; Ipswich, 1 case, 1 death; Cairns, 2 cases, 1 death; Maryborough, 2 cases, 1 death.

Of the 9 fatal cases, 3 were discovered by post-mortem examinations; 2 were Chinamen, 1 a Kanaka, and 1 an aboriginal. The gross mortality was 31 per cent—Europeans, 26.92 per cent; colored races, 100 per cent. The epizootic incidence of plague in rats, as in former years, preceded and accompanied the cases of plague in man.

The systematic daily bacteriological examination of the carcasses of rats killed by the rat-destroying gang of the department, and the information derived therefrom, proves the close connection which